

AGGIE FOOTBALL GUIDE

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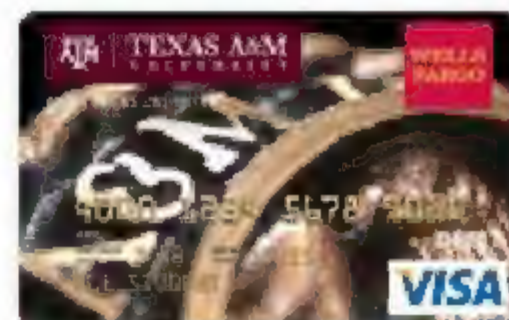
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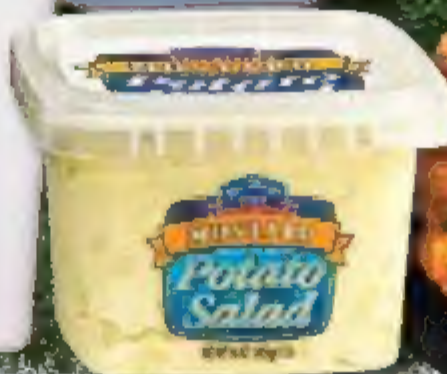
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**On the Cover:** Ben Malena leads the Aggies on and off the field.  
Photo by Rob Havens '88.



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# Howdy Ags!

It's a historic time to be an Aggie football fan! When I think of my fondest memories of Aggie football, I always think of Bucky Richardson leading the Aggies from behind to beat mighty Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl. Or, the time we stopped Heisman Trophy winner Bo Jackson four times inside the five yard line to beat Auburn in the Cotton Bowl. I remember watching a sea of Twelfth Man towels twirl in the air as the original 12th Man Kickoff Team took the field. Oh, what great stories to tell my three sons!

But now, with our move to the SEC, the Aggies have gained national attention! The Texas A&M brand has attracted some of those t-shirt fans around the country, and Aggie football is at the forefront of college football. It's almost impossible to watch a national sports network football show and not hear Texas A&M mentioned. In the past, the success of our team was enjoyed by alumni, students and fans with ties to our great university. If you told people you were an Aggie fan, they would say, "Alright, which class?" Now, there is a whole new set of fans that don the maroon and white and claim Texas A&M as their own. The history-making moments from last year and this year have a whole new generation of fans that will be telling their kids about the time the Aggies beat Alabama in Tuscaloosa or the time Heisman-winning Johnny Manziel and the gang whipped Oklahoma in the Cotton Bowl!

The fans around the country that used to follow national powers like USC and Notre Dame are now focusing their attention on Aggieland and claiming the Aggies as their own!

Gig'em Ags!

*Rob '88*



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snapshot

## leading the way

Yell Leaders sprint out in front of Your Fightin' Texas Aggie Football Team to kick off the 2013 season. The triple digit heat didn't stop the Aggie faithful from exploding as the team took the field in one of the most anticipated seasons in Aggie Football history!

Photo by Rob Havens '88.







## diving in...

#1 Ben Malena takes flight as he dives into the end zone for the first touchdown of the season. Malena led the team in rushing averaging 6.8 yards per carry. He scored two touchdowns on the day, one on the ground and another through the air.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.











## thrill of victory...

and the agony of defeat! Junior forward Shea Groom celebrates after breaking a scoreless tie with a one timer against UTSA. A Roadrunner defender covers her face in disgust. The goal proved to be the winning goal in a defensive battle that ended in a 1-0 victory for the Aggies. Photo by Rob Havens '88.







# billyliucci's TOP 44 IN '13

## Quarterbacks (1)

1	Jerrold Heard	Guyer	6-2	180
	Committed to Texas			

## Running Backs (5)

1	Varshaun Nixon	Lake Travis	5-10	185
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Kevin Shorter	Newton	6-0	190
	Committed to Texas			
3	Justin Stockton	Steele	5-9	160
	Committed to TTU			
4	Donald Catalon	Eisenhower	6-0	200
	Committed to Texas			
5	Samaje Perine	Hendrickson	5-10	195
	Committed to OU			

## Wide Receivers (5)

1	Armani Foreman	Texas City	5-11	175
	Committed to Texas			
2	Davion Hall	Liberty-Eylau	6-3	185
	Committed to Baylor			
3	KD Cannon	Mount Pleasant	6-1	160
	Committed to Baylor			
4	Tony Upchurch	Dawson	6-2	180
	Committed to LSU			
5	Lorenzo Joe	Abilene Cooper	6-2	180
	Committed to Texas			

## Linebackers (8)

1	Hoza Scott	La Porte	6-3	220
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Edwin Freeman	Bowie	6-1	190
	TEX, TCU, A&M			
3	Zach Whitley	North Shore	6-2	210
	Committed to Alabama			
4	Josh Walker	Gilmer	6-1	220
	Committed to Texas A&M			
5	Otaro Alaka	Cy-Fair	6-3	215
	Committed to Texas			
6	Silvester Hayes	South Oak Cliff	6-2	215
	TTU, IA, A&M			
7	Sam Sizelove	Argyle	6-1	205
	Committed to KSU			
8	Cameron Hampton	Carter	6-2	205
	Committed to Texas			

## Fight Ends (1)

1	Mavin Saunders	Kinkaid	6-5	230
	Committed to FSU			

## Defensive Ends (4)

1	Myles Garrett	Arington Martin	6-4	235
	A&M, TCU, Ore, Bama			
2	Solomon Thomas	Coppel	6-3	255
	TEX, Sta, ND, A&M			
3	Derick Roberson	SA Brennan	6-3	215
	Committed to Texas			
4	Jarrett Johnson	Seven Lakes	6-3	225
	Committed to Texas A&M			

## Cornerbacks (6)

1	Nick Harvey	FB Travis	5-11	180
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Lonny Brown	Ozen	6-0	190
	LSU, A&M, TEX			
3	Armani Watts	North Forney	5-11	185
	Committed to Texas A&M			
4	Cedric Collins	Skyline	5-10	175
	Committed to Texas A&M			
5	Nick Watkins	Bishop Dunne	6-0	165
	MICH, Bama, A&M, TEX			
6	Darrion Johnson	Navasota	5-10	185
	TEX, A&M, OU			

## Safeties (6)

1	Jana Adams	Hebron	6-0	175
	A&M, Fla, TEX, Miss, OSU			
2	Dylan Sumner-Gardner	West Mesquite	6-0	190
	Committed to Texas A&M			
3	Edward Paris	Timberview	6-1	190
	Committed to LSU			
4	Arrion Springs	Roosevelt	5-11	190
	Committed to Oregon			
5	Brandon Simmons	Timberview	6-0	175
	Committed to Stanford			
6	John Bonney	Lamar	6-0	165
	LSU, Tex, TCU			

## Defensive Tackles (4)

1	DeShawn Washington	Nederland	6-3	275
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Zaycoven Henderson	Longview	6-2	270
	Committed to TCU			
3	Trey Lealaimatafao	Warren	6-0	265
	Committed to Texas			
4	DJ Williams	Lufkin	6-4	275
	OU, OSU, Tex			

## Offensive Linebacks (4)

1	Kealvin Davis	Lakeview Centennial	6-4	255
	Committed to Texas A&M			
2	Koda Martin	Marvell	6-5	265
	Committed to Texas A&M			
3	Demetrius Knox	FW All Saints	6-5	300
	Committed to Ohio State			
4	Jovan Pruitt	Bishop Dunne	6-6	290
	Committed to Arkansas			



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# DUAL THREAT!

KATY RUNNING BACK  
~~RODNEY ANDERSON~~  
BRINGS TALENTS  
TO AGGIELAND!

BY ROB HAVENS '88

**Texas A&M picked up a huge verbal** commitment in August for the 2015 signing class. 4-Star Katy running back Rodney Anderson committed to the Aggies near the end of his unofficial visit. Anderson told ESPN.com, "I didn't come thinking I was going to commit. I felt like it was the best decision for me, so I did."

Anderson held offers from Auburn, Baylor, Houston, LSU, Michigan St, Texas and Texas Tech. The 6'1", 205 lb. running back is ranked as the number two 2015 All Purpose Back in the state of Texas. Experts are impressed with his explosive speed at the line of scrimmage. He has great balance, long strides, and is a strong runner with 4.43 40-yard dash speed. Anderson has the

ability to run over defenders but is equally dangerous in the open field. He has great hands and can run crisp routes as a receiver. With his amazing athletic ability, he will give the Aggies another pass-catching threat out of the backfield.

In his first game since his commitment, Anderson had 17 rushes for 209 yards and 3 touchdowns. He also had 3 receptions for 37 yards and another touchdown through the air in a 41-3 victory. Fans can't wait to see this recruit donning the maroon and white. Anderson joins 4-Star tight end Jordan Davis and 4-Star Splendora running back Jay Bradford as the first three jewels in the 2015 Aggie recruiting class. **■**





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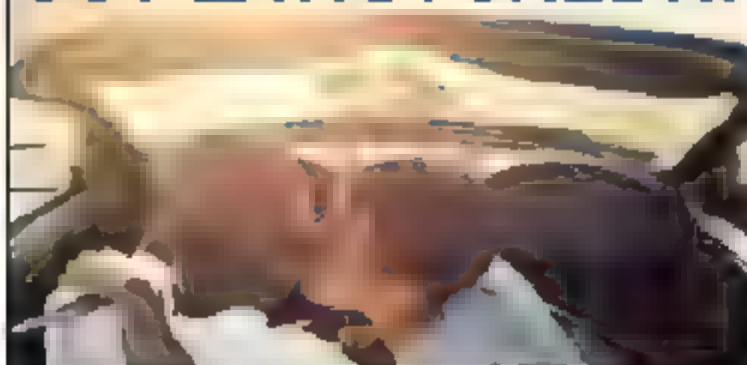
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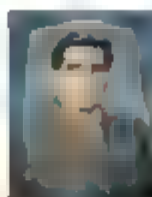
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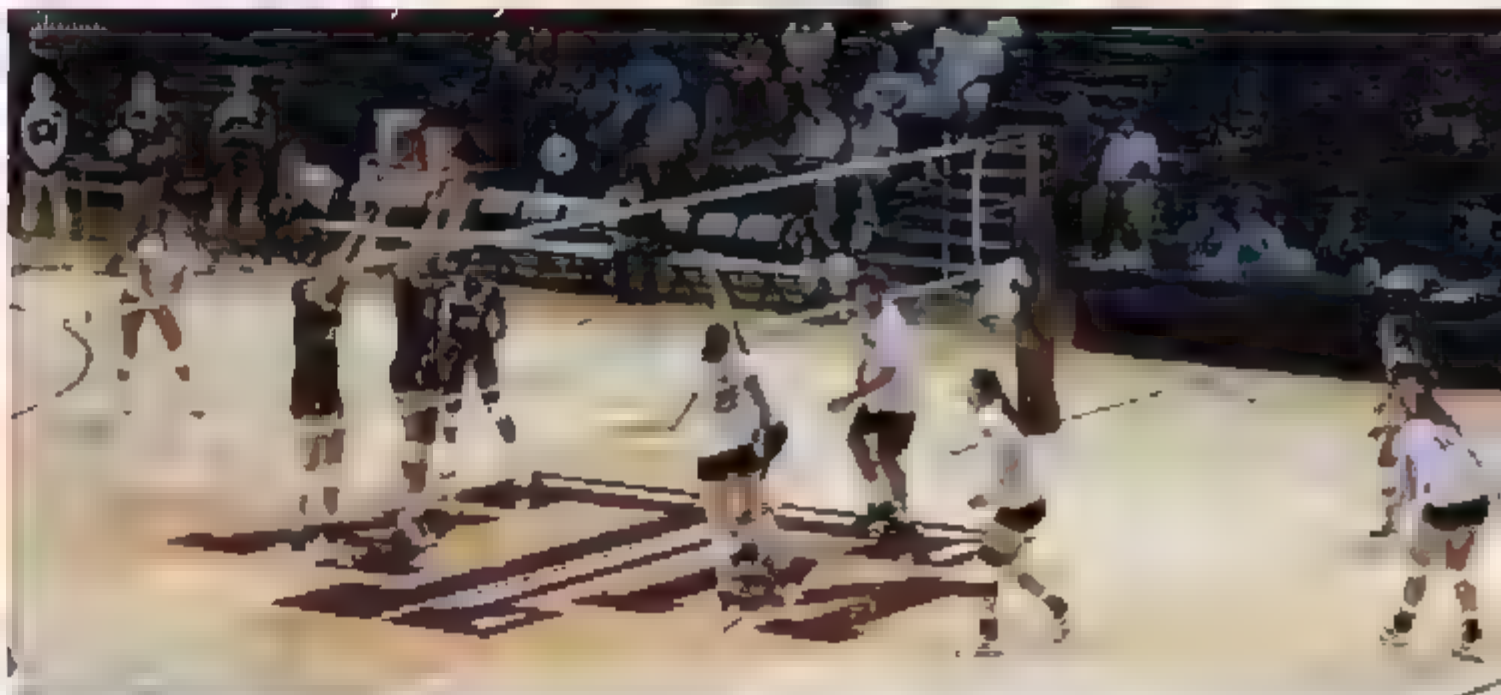
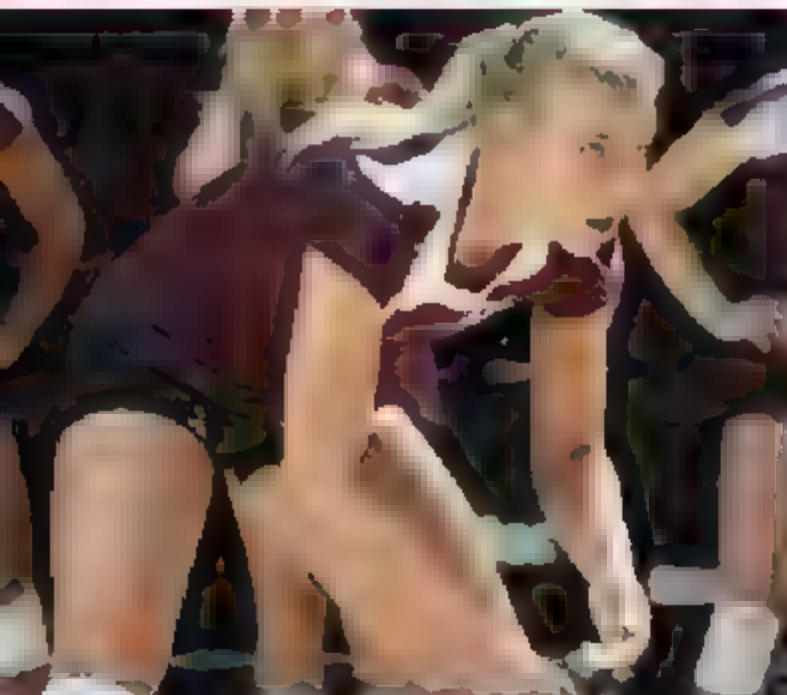
**(women's soccer)** The Aggie soccer team has competed in tight games in the first part of the 2013 campaign, facing two top ten squads in their first six contests. While the Ags continue to play stellar defense, allowing only one goal combined in both matches against #7 Duke and #9 Baylor, goal scoring has been in short supply. Kelly Monogue leads the team in goals, while Karlie Mueller is the leader in assists. Junior goalkeeper Jordan Day was named the SEC defensive player of the week for the first week of September, allowing just one goal in 200 minutes of action. Entering SEC play, the Aggies look to attack their sophomore season in the SEC and bring home their first SEC championship.







**(women's volleyball)** Laurie Corbelli's 2013 squad took to the road for the first six matches of the year, winning five of six and only losing six games total over the road trip. The Aggie volleyball team brought home the UTSA Classic Tournament Championship and placed three players on the all-tournament team. Senior setter Allie Sawatzky and sophomore outside hitters Sierra Patrick and Angela Lowak led the Aggies to three victories and were recognized as top performers in the tournament. The Aggies return home to the friendly confines of Reed Arena for a five-game home stand before a quick, two-game match swing to Colorado. The team kicks off conference play against Georgia on September 29th.





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# Kelsey Kinley

## “Digs” Being an Aggie

Senior Defensive Specialist Lives Out Dream!

BY ROB HAVENS '88



Was it always your dream to come to A&M?

Yes! It was always my dream to come to A&M. The volleyball thing just happened to work out. Even if I wasn't going to get to play volleyball, I always wanted to come to A&M.

Tell me about your background.

My dad is a strength coach here at A&M. Growing up I went to all the sporting events. I wasn't into sports when I was super young. My first Aggie sports event was the 1991 Cotton Bowl when I was two weeks old. From then on I went to sporting events all the time. Sometimes my dad would have to bribe me, "I'll get you some candy if you come with me!" After a while I always wanted to go. When I was twelve I started playing volleyball, so then I went to more volleyball games.

So when did it become a reality that you could play volleyball for the Aggies?

I started thinking about college during my junior year in high school, and I knew that I wanted to go to A&M. My high school volleyball coach, Cydryce McMullan, played at Indiana and had a lot of college volleyball experience and had coached there before she coached at A&M Consolidated. She sat me down one day and said, "I know you want to go to A&M, but you're good enough to play there! You should really look into it and see if that's something you would want to do."

I guess that's when it hit me—wow, I could really play at A&M! Then it became a reality.

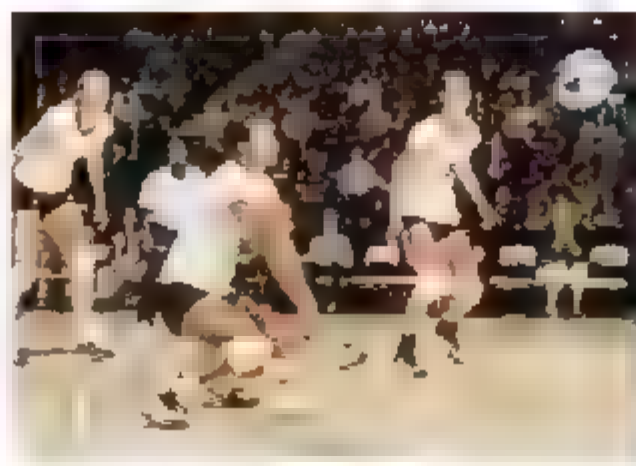


How has your role on the team changed since your freshman year?

Freshman year, I was just excited to be on the team. I was a walk-on and they had me go in and serve; that was my main thing. My role was to go in and be a consistent server, and then I would come out. My main focus was to get an ace or keep the ball in and never miss serves, and I had the best serving percentage. So, that was sort of my role at that time. Sophomore year, I didn't play as big of a role. If they needed someone defensively to go in, I would help get some digs here and there. In my junior year, I played a lot more, and more consistently. I definitely had a bigger role on the team, being a defensive specialist going in wherever they needed me. I was thrown into every position in the back row, so whenever they needed passing or defense, I was put in, and I tried to just be very consistent. Now that I'm a senior, my goal is to help my team with defense and be more of a leader, especially since I'm a senior. I need to take charge of the defense more and help the younger girls understand the rules on the court.

Are you more of a vocal leader or do you prefer to lead by example?

My freshman year, they would always tell me to talk more, I'm a pretty quiet person. I do a lot of leading by example, but since my freshman year, I've definitely become more vocal. Not the most vocal on the court, I'm never going to be the loudest, but I'm always going to say things that are going to help my teammates out.



What's your favorite place to play so far?

We played at Yale last year. I thought it was a really cool experience. We've traveled to Big 12 and SEC schools, but it was a different change of pace going up there and seeing an Ivy League school; the campus was gorgeous. It was cool to play some different schools that we don't normally play.

You played awesome in that game as well, correct?

(Laughing) Yes! That too.

The Aggies are picked to win the West Division. Do you like the high expectations or do you prefer to be the underdog?

We've always had a strong program, so I don't think anyone would see us as an underdog. So, I guess being on top, we need those high expectations. We know we should win the West. We came in second in the SEC overall last year. This year, we want to win it!





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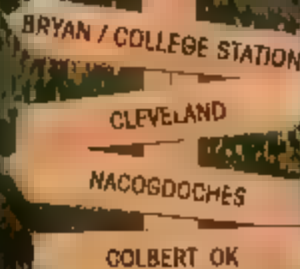
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# FOUR QUESTIONS FOR COACH G

BY ROB HAVENS 88

## How are things going so far in camp?

So far, so good. We are ahead of where we were the last two years at this time of year. That's mostly because this team is dominated in numbers by upperclassmen, whereas the team two years ago was a freshman-dominated number. It's great! I'm really pleased with what our captains have done in the off season as far as leadership and bringing the team together because chemistry is such an important part of women's athletics. Our three captains are Meghan Streight, Rachel Lenz and Shea Groom. They appear to have really done a great job of getting the guys going on the right foot.

## Is there a big difference between Big 12 play and SEC play?

All the differences were positive. All the venues we went to were quality. I thought the facilities in the SEC were top notch; the fields were better than we were accustomed to in the Big 12, which for us is important because we try to put the ball on the ground and play, and we didn't have to worry about going into any snake pits in the SEC. That was nice. I don't know if it was just a honeymoon period or what, but everyone that we met was cordial and pleasant, and we had some success. It was a neat first year. The learning curve was almost straight up, but it was kind of a neat thing to do. This year we'll go to all of the venues that we didn't visit last time, so there's still going to be a lot of newness to it this year. I've never been to Auburn or Alabama with the team. We've never taken the team to Athens, Georgia. We haven't played in Tuscaloosa since most of these girls were babies. So it's been a long, long time. It will be good; I think anything new is fun sometimes.

## Is your approach different with a veteran team?

Well, because we're not on the bunny slope all the time, we can get into some advanced ideas. We can build off of the experiences that some of these guys have had in the past, and the good news is that our freshman are accomplished players. They're fitting in just nicely. They're picking it up on the fly. It's really been fun. Our pre-season began last January; we were preparing the whole spring for what we're going to have now. We started to implement a lot of the themes we will be using this season back in January, February and March, and now it's just a matter of bringing those things back in after a summer off and getting ourselves back up to speed. We think that we can really play to some new strengths on our team.

## What will it take to win a National Championship?

Well, playing at home is a proven advantage, and the women's soccer NCAA tournament is not like a neutral NCAA basketball event. It is a home field advantage tournament where you can play at home for the first four rounds. We've been in the Sweet 16 eleven times and played only one of those games at home. We've been in the Elite 8 four times, and none of those games were played at home. Yet, we lost in double overtime in a few of those games. So, we've got to take care of our business in the regular season so that our seeding, hopefully, is favorable for getting into the tournament but also high enough to play at home. I like our chances on our surface and our weather in front of the 12th Man.





# 14

## QUESTIONS FOR MEGHAN STREIGHT

BY ROB HAVENS '88

**When did you start playing soccer?**

I started playing when I was about five years old. I've been playing for a good 15 or 16 years.

**Was it the only sport you played growing up?**

No. Growing up I played basketball, and in middle school I played volleyball and track as well, but basketball and soccer were my two main sports. When I got to high school I focused solely on soccer.

**Why did you choose to come to A&M?**

I have a sister that is eight years older than me. When she came to A&M I was ten years old and I experienced my first Aggie soccer game. That sealed the deal for me. I came to a lot of soccer games growing up and it was always a dream of mine to come here and play. It was by the grace of God that it really did happen.

**Talk about your position on the field.**

I'm mainly a defender, but I switch between defensive mid to center back. I like center back because I can see the whole field.

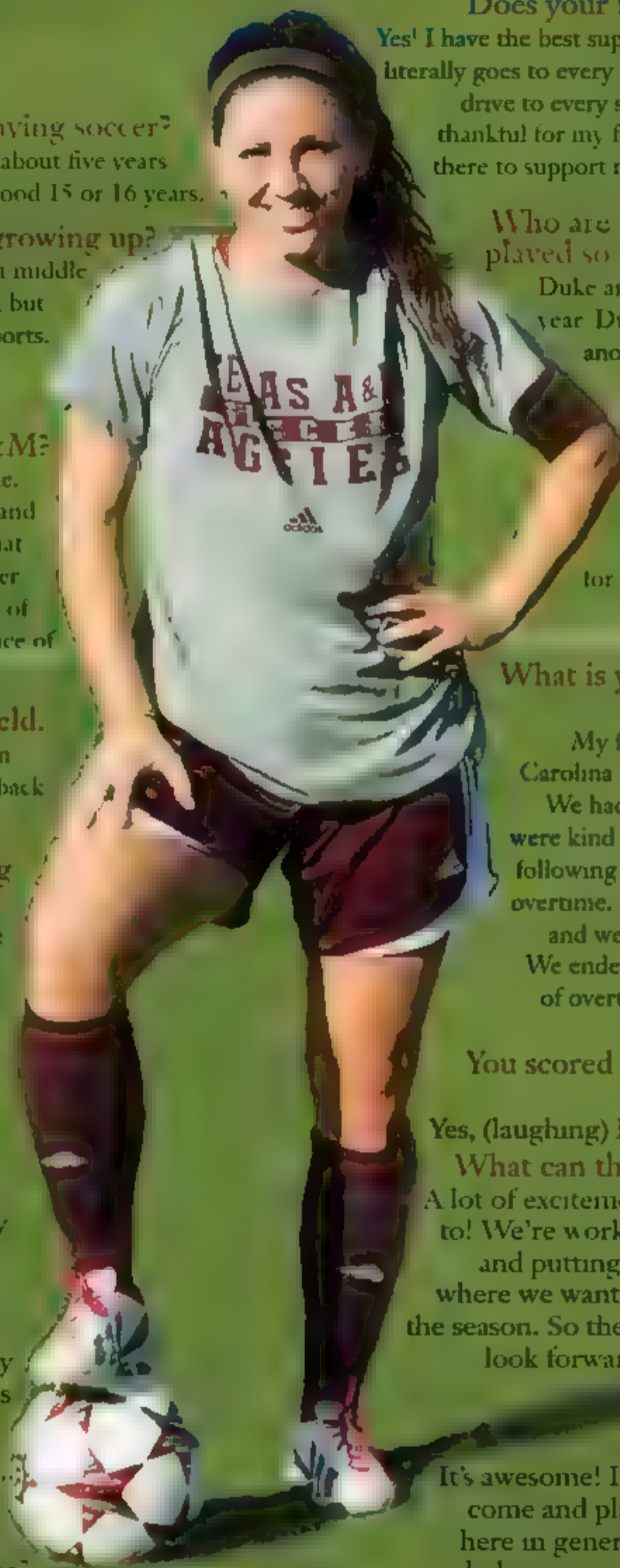
**Talk about the difference between Big 12 and SEC soccer.**

Just the style of play; the Big 12 is a more physical type of game, and they don't really pass as much or play like the style we try to play here. We try to keep the ball and possess as much as possible. The SEC is more like our style of play, so the competition is better for us because the teams are trying to do what we are trying to accomplish. It's really awesome, and overall, they're really great teams.

**What teams are you looking forward to playing this year?**

Florida. That's always a big game and they always have a good program. Tennessee as well, because we lost to them the last two years. We lost to Florida the last two years too, so those are big games for us.

**Do you have any pre game superstitions?**  
I pray a lot!



**Does your family come to games?**

Yes! I have the best support system ever! My family literally goes to every game. My parents travel and drive to every single away game. I'm just so thankful for my family because they're always there to support me and have been for as long as I've been playing.

**Who are the toughest teams you've played so far in your college career?**

Duke and North Carolina, my freshman year. Duke - they're a good team! That's another one I'm looking forward to.

**What's it like playing here at home?**

It's incredible! There's not a better feeling than playing here in front of the 12th man. No other school has that! Being able to play for a school that's so supportive and so excited for its athletes is an awesome feeling!

**What is your favorite moment so far as an Aggie soccer player?**

My freshman year when we beat North Carolina and they were ranked number one. We had just lost pretty badly to Duke and were kind of in the dumps a little bit, and the following Sunday we beat North Carolina in overtime. It was just a battle the entire game, and we had to fight our way back to tie it. We ended up scoring in the first 30 seconds of overtime, and it was just one of the best feelings ever.

**You scored that tying goal against North Carolina, right?**

Yes, (laughing) I tied the game. It was awesome!

**What can the fans expect this year?**

A lot of excitement! A lot to look forward to! We're working really hard right now and putting in a lot of effort to get to where we want to be at the end of the season. So they have a lot to look forward to.

**How is it playing for Coach G?**

It's awesome! It was always a dream of mine to come and play for this school. So, just being here in general and being with these coaches and players is great. I'm just very thankful for it all! Ultimately, it's a dream come true for me!

"She's an absolute stud. As ferocious and imposing as she is on the field, she is cold and elegant and kind off the field. She's really, really a neat person. Really cool family! She has a twin brother, which is an interesting dynamic in itself. She's an absolute winner. She's a lovely kid. I'd adopt her in a second if I had the opportunity." Coach G



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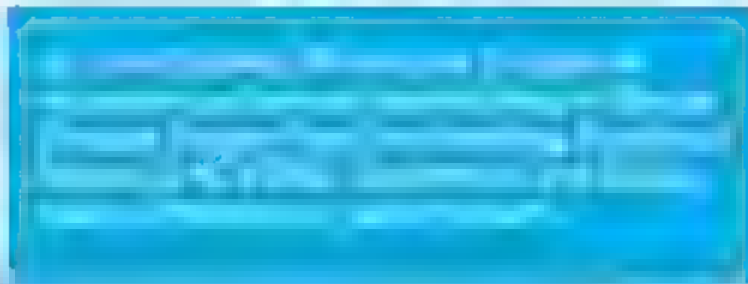
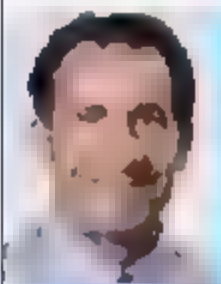
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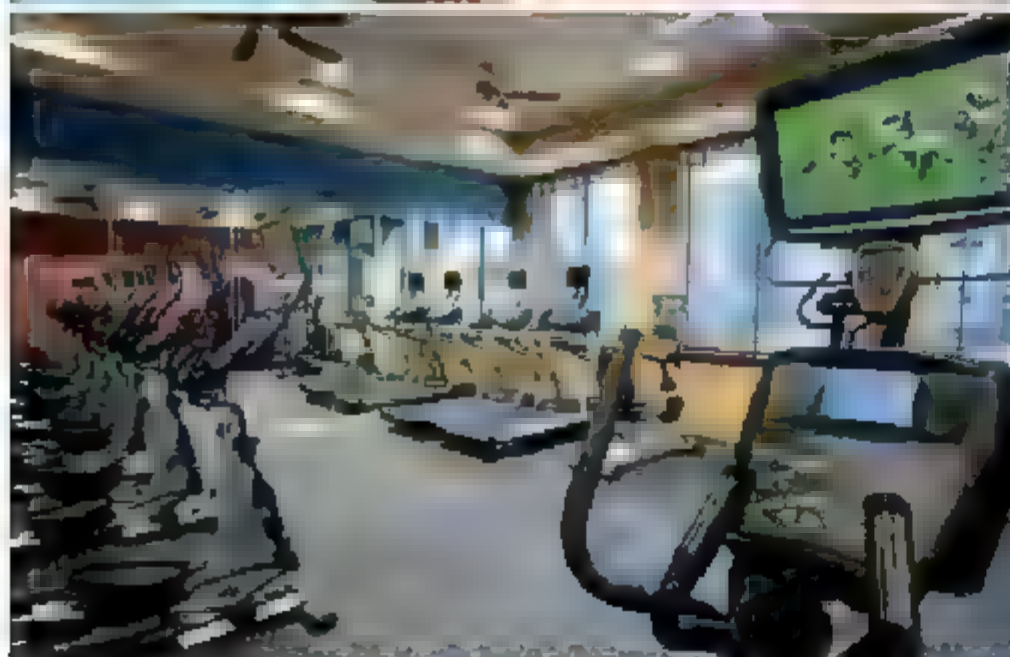
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# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

BY ROB HAVENS 88

2014 will be a milestone year as the Sport Clubs Association celebrates its 40th anniversary. Including the 23 national championships from last year, Texas A&M Sport Clubs have won a total of 208 national championships since its inception. AI sat down with Sport Clubs Director Keith Joseph to talk about the success of the program. "It's remarkable and something that a lot of people don't know about. We talk to people in town that have no idea we have an ice hockey team, polo team and gymnastics team. These students work just as hard as the varsity athletes!"

There are 34 club teams with over a thousand student-athletes. Joseph says that team members practice two, three or four times per week and compete and travel on the weekends. The clubs are student run with support from Joseph and Assistant Director Jessica Konetski, who collectively oversee the operations of the clubs. The success of each program, as far as wins go, has been amazing, but as Joseph notes, "The development aspect is what we do to make sure that when our officers walk out of here they have some life skills to take with them." If you ask the officers what they learned from overseeing a club, Joseph says they will tell you, "The good, bad and ugly helps them later on in life."

Student athletes in non-varsity sport clubs are competing regionally, nationally, and even internationally in the sports they love. The club level across the country is extremely competitive. Many of the sports, such as polo, fencing, triathlon, judo, and taekwondo, do not have an NCAA equivalent, so this is the highest level of competition for those athletes. Joseph says, "Archery has probably been our most successful club because they have won 15 national championships in the last 17 years. We've had

Olympians come out of our archery program, but archery's not an NCAA sport, so this is the highest level for them."

Sport clubs take over 300 trips per year to approximately 25 states, depending on whom they play from year to year. Some clubs even compete internationally in world collegiate championships. Due to the extensive travel costs and other related expenses, one of the main duties of the club and its officers is to fundraise. The Department of Recreational Sports helps significantly financially, but they can't cover all of the costs that the sport clubs incur. In order to drive or fly to the different events the clubs participate in, they have to pay dues as well as generate money through fundraisers. The department does keep track of these fundraisers, and Joseph says that last year the clubs collectively raised over a million dollars. In addition to traveling, the clubs also host over 100 events per year, which, for the most part, are free to attend. In fact, regional rivals like the University of Texas, that you might not get to see at the varsity sports level, are still competing against several of the sport clubs.

Rec Sports does have minimum GPR requirements, as well as a minimum number of credit hours, for all student-athletes who compete and represent Texas A&M. Joseph says, "We check all of those things because when we have students representing Texas A&M, we want to make sure they are student-athletes."

Students who would like to learn more about sport clubs, or anyone interested in donating to support the student-athletes that participate, are invited to visit the Rec Sports website: [recsports.tamu.edu](http://recsports.tamu.edu) (click on the Sport Clubs tab); Facebook: TAMUSportClubs; or Twitter: @tamuSportClubs.



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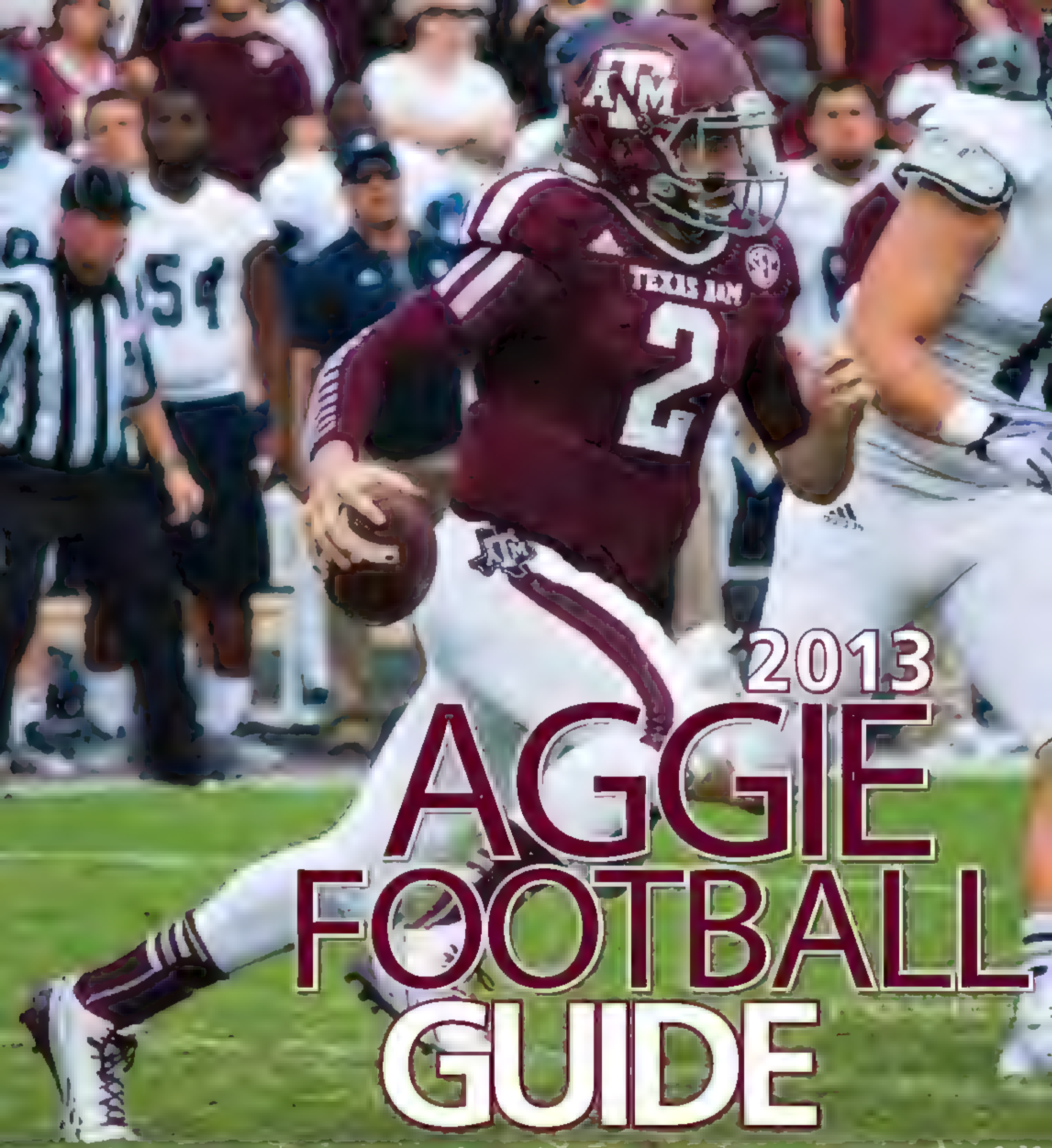


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1019 **AUBURN**

1026 **VANDERBILT**

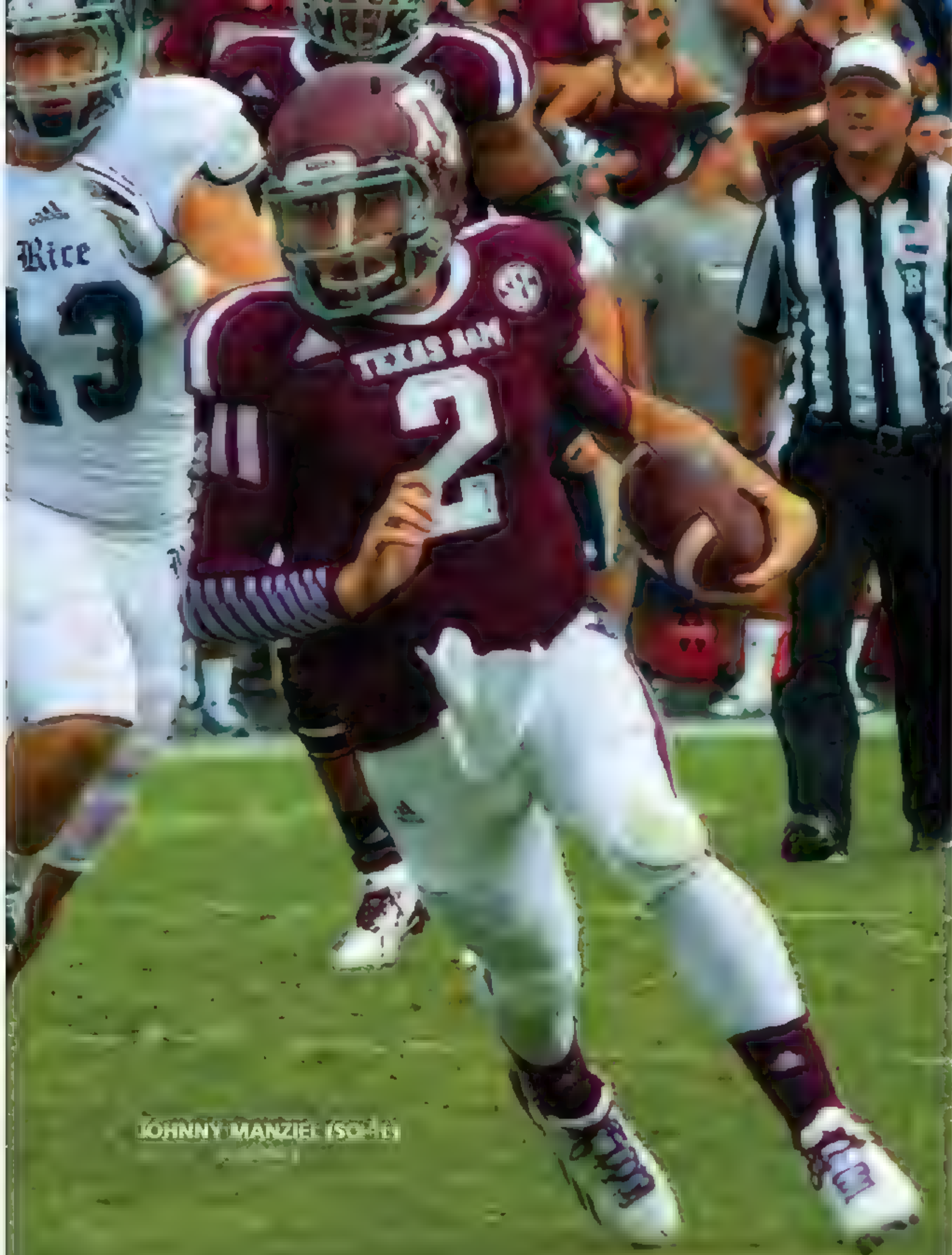
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1109 **MISSISSIPPI ST.**

1123 **LSU**

1130





JOHNNY MANZIEL (SO-11)





**MATT JOECKEL (Jr-1L)**

Quarterback



**KENNY HILL (Fr-HS)**

Quarterback

## OFFENSE [ QUARTERBACK ]

**Heisman Trophy Winning Quarterback Johnny Manziel** hopes to improve on his record-setting redshirt freshman year by leading the team in his second year at the helm. Johnny worked with quarterback guru George Whitfield, Jr. over the summer to improve his mechanics and try to once again be the best player in college football. Opponents this year will definitely be working overtime to figure out a way to stop Johnny Football. The competition for back-up was a battle throughout camp between **Matt Joeckel** and true freshman **Kenny Hill**. In the first half of the Rice game, Joeckel led the team with confidence and impressed fans with his ability to move the team up and down the field. More importantly, he did not turn the ball over and looked right at home leading the Aggie offense. Kenny Hill, a true freshman from South Lake Carroll High School, competed hard in fall camp for the second string job. Hill impressed coaches with his ability to run and throw and made an immediate impact when he was inserted into the SHSU game. He threw two passes covering 52 yards and a touchdown in his first series, giving Aggie fans a glimpse into the future.



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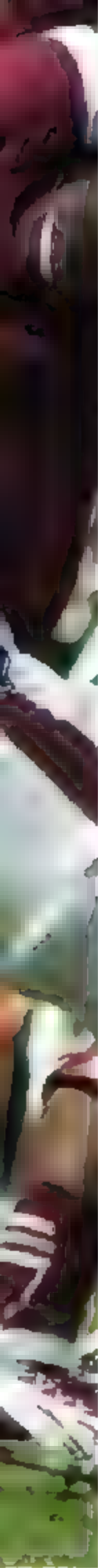
**BEN MALENA (SR-3L).**  
*Running back*

## [ RUNNING BACK ]

This season the Aggies will have a full stable of talent to choose from at the running back position. **Ben Malena** started off this year exactly where he left off last year by averaging 6.8 yards per carry in the first game. One of the hardest workers on the team, and becoming one of the best leaders, Ben does whatever it takes to win! Running the ball, returning kickoffs or blocking, he does it all. Oregon transfer **Tra Carson** hit the

ground running this year, adding bulk to the backfield of the Aggie offense. He can run over opponents or use his agility to zig zag his way through opposing defenses. **Trey Williams** has become an every down back by becoming an effective blocker in the off season. His lightning quick speed and escapability allows the Aggies to have a home run threat on the field every time he touches the ball. Last, but certainly not least,





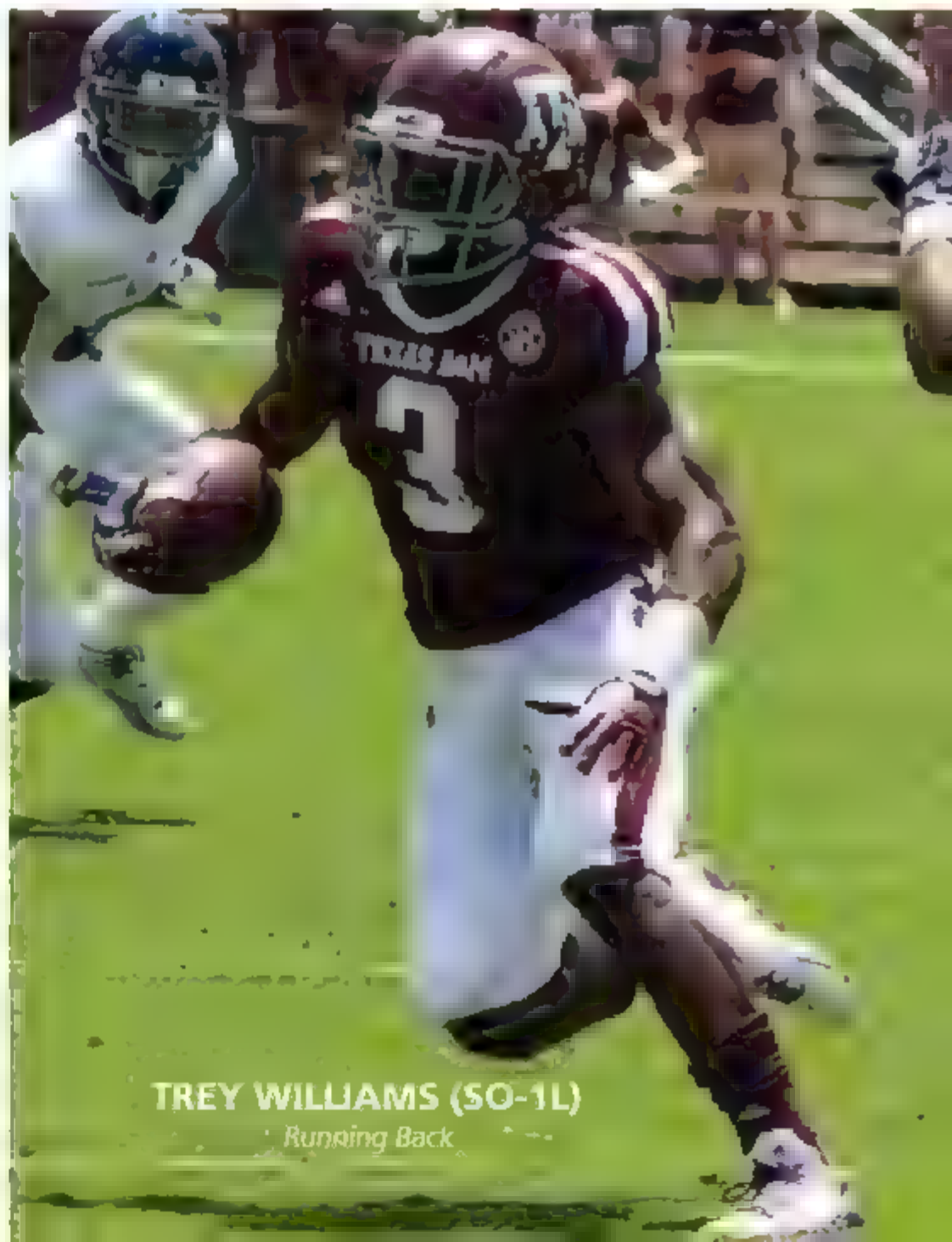
**BRANDON WILLIAMS (SO-TR)**

Running Back



**TREY CARSON (SO-TR)**

Running Back



**TREY WILLIAMS (SO-1L)**

Running Back

**Brandon Williams**, a transfer from OU that has been chomping at the bit for over a year, is waiting his turn to show what he can do! Aggie fans be ready for this one, he has the skill set to turn heads during games this fall. Defensive coordinators will make sure their players know when he's on the field.





## [ OFFENSIVE LINE ]

The strength of the Aggie team is certainly found at the line of scrimmage. After losing left tackle Luke Joeckel to the Jaguars with the second pick of the NFL Draft last spring, and senior Patrick Lewis to graduation, you might expect a drop off, but this year's group may be even better than last year's. With **Jake Matthews** moving from right to left tackle, he has become the blind side tackle for #2 and looks to follow his teammate Joeckel as a high first round selection in the next spring's draft. Returning from a back up role in 2012 is little brother **Mike Matthews**, who is surely prepared to carry

on the great legacy of the Matthews family. Coach Sumlin must be thanking his lucky stars to have two Matthews brothers on the same line. At 6'4", 325 lbs., **Jarvis Harrison** and 6'5", 311 lb. **Germain Ifedi** are huge difference makers in the middle of this talented line. **Cedric Ogbuehi** takes the place of Jake Matthews at right tackle to bookend this NFL-caliber group of men. Providing depth at each position is **Ben Compton** at center, **Shep Klinke** and **Garrett Gramling** at guard, and **Jeremiah Stuckey** and **Joseph Cheek** at tackle.





**CEDRIC AGUIAR (JR-20)**

Right Tackle



**GERMAIN PEEDY (FR-18)**

Right Guard



**JARVIS HARRISON (JR-2L)**

Left Guard



**JAKE MATTHEWS (SR-3L)**

Left Tackle



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**DEREL WALKER (SR-1L)**

Wide Receiver



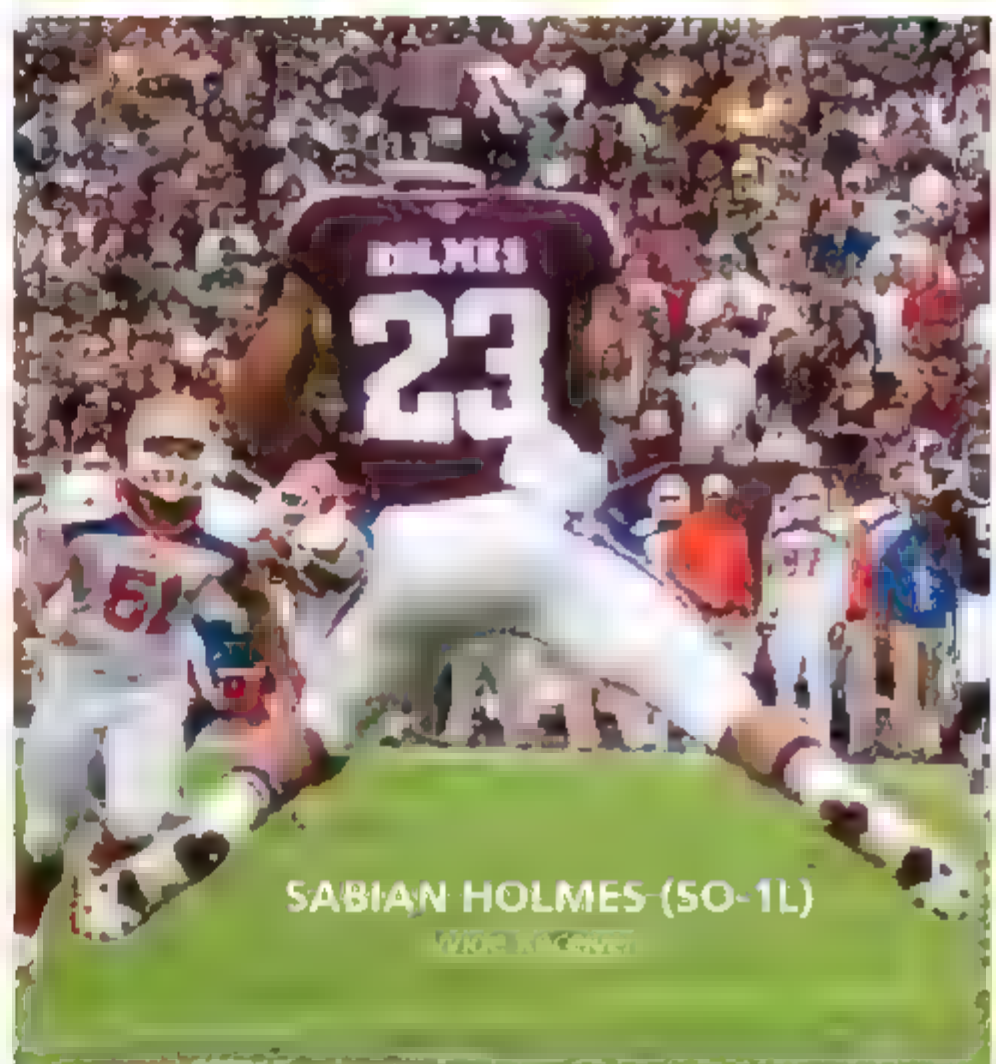
**JEREMY TABUYO (FR-HS)**

Wide Receiver



**PHILIP HIGGS (SR-3L)**

Tight End



**SABIAN HOLMES (SO-1L)**

Wide Receiver

## [ WIDE RECEIVER & TIGHT END ]

**Mike Evans** leads an elite group of receivers that look to put up historic numbers this year. Evans was voted as the third best receiver in the SEC in the preseason conference predictions after a team-leading 82 catches last year. **Malcome Kennedy** and **Derel Walker** return from last year's squad while a young group of newcomers look to make an instant impact. Headlining the list will be **Ricky Seals-Jones**, who at 6'5", 225 lbs. is not your



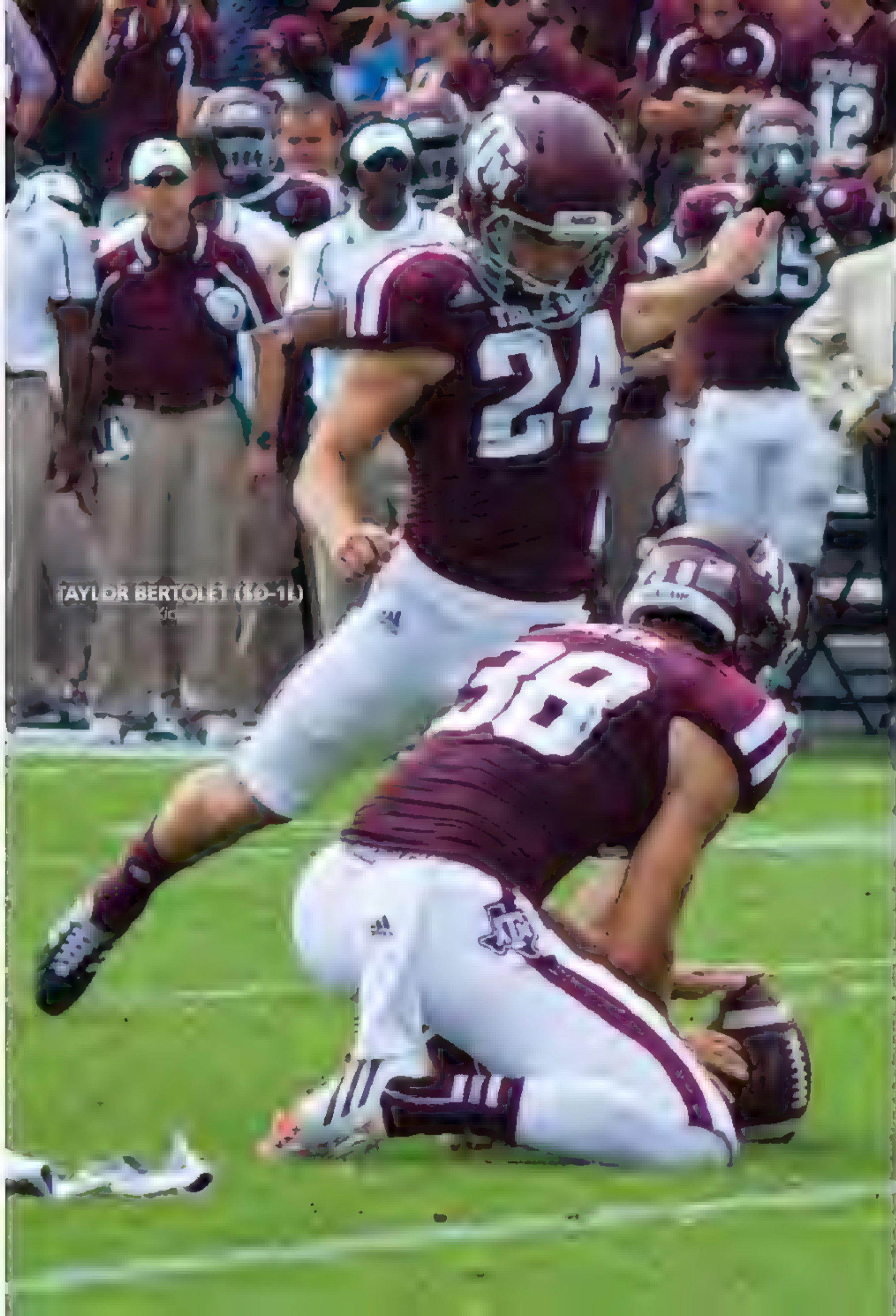


MIKE EVANS (SO-1L)  
Wide Receiver

typical freshman receiver. Against Rice, Seal Jones burst onto the scene with a 71 yard catch and run for a touchdown that caused a Kyle Field eruption. **Sabian Holmes, Jeremy Tabuyo, LaQuvionte Gonzalez, Ja'Ouay Williams, Kyrion Parker** and **Sebastian Larue** will all battle for early playing time and should give defenses fits as one by one talent will swap out for talent every play. This group of receivers may prove to be the best in the nation. At

Tight End, the Aggies add 6'6", 270 lb. **Cameron Clear**, who will be a menacing figure off the line to members of the secondary that have to defend against him. Along with Senior **Nehemiah Hicks**, this will be an added wrinkle to the Aggies offense, giving Johnny Manziel another weapon to add to his offensive arsenal





TAYLOR BERTOLET (SO-11)





**TREY WILLIAMS (SO-1L)**  
*Kickoff Returner*



**DREW KASER (SO-SQ)**  
*Punter*



**LAQUVIONTE GONZALEZ (FR-HS)**  
*Kickoff Returner*

## SPECIAL TEAMS

Coach Jeff Banks brings a fiery attitude to this year's special teams unit. The former college punter and kicker has already got fans oohing and ahing at new starting punter **Drew Kaser**. The sophomore punter booted a 77-yard punt against Rice and consistently shows the leg strength that pro scouts will be looking for. **Taylor Bertolet** will be busy kicking extra points for the Aggies' high powered offense. When called upon to boot that long field goal, he has plenty of leg, as he showed in the Sam Houston State game by repeatedly kicking the ball into the end zone on kickoffs. Starting left tackle **Jake Matthews** will again take care of the short snap duties, while Junior **Alex Freeman** will handle the deep snaps for Drew Kaser. On kick off returns, **Trey Williams** and **LaQuvionte Gonzalez** will provide a dynamic duo that can take it to the house on any given kickoff. On punt returns, the Aggies introduced **Travis Labhart**, who has turned heads with his play in practice. **Sabian Holmes** gives Coach Banks a second option for the return game. **Josh Lambo** will provide depth at kicker while **Shane Tripucka**, a freshman from Allen, will back up Kaser at punter.



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NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HT	WT	CL-EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
1	Morris, DeVance	QB	5-10	175	So-1L	Mesquite, Texas (Horn)
1	Wheeler, Ben	RB	5-11	195	Sr-3L	Cedar Hill, Texas (Cedar Hill)
2	Marzette, Johnny	QB	6-1	200	So-1L	Kennel, Texas (Trey)
3	Sanders, Tommy	LB	6-2	215	Jr-7R	Candale, Ga. (Crisp County/Buller (Ken.) CC)
3	Williams, Trey	RB	5-11	185	So-1L	<del>Waco, Texas (Waco)</del>
4	Hunter, Tony	DB	5-9	180	Sr-3L	Missouri City, Texas (Fort Bend/Marshall)
4	Williams, AJ/Quay	WR	6-3	210	Fr-RS	Pyron, Ga. (Sandy Creek/Fort Union (W.)
5	Williams, Brandon	RB	6-0	192	So-7R	Brookshire, Texas (Brookshire Royal)
6	Davis, Matt	■	6-2	206	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Klein Forest)
6	Ellis, Noel	DB	5-10	175	Fr-RS	New Orleans, La. (Karr)
7	Hill, Kenny	■	6-1	215	Fr-RS	Southlake, Texas (Carroll)
7	Jacobs, Trammell	DB	6-1	190	Sr-1L	Cowington, La. (Cowington/Mississippi Gulf Coast CC)
8	Jenkins, Steven	LB	6-2	220	Sr-2L	Perrisville, Pa. (Pine Forest/Coffeyville (S.) CC)
9	Jakins, Mike	LB	6-4	225	Sr-3L	San Antonio, Texas (Madison)
10	Mall, Daquan	OL	6-6	225	Fr-RS	Lancaster, Texas (Lancaster)
10	Williams, LaKendrick	WR	5-8	170	Jr-1L	Houston, Texas (Shugartown)
11	Walker, Darni	WR	6-2	185	Sr-1L	Hillborno, Texas (Hillborno/Trinity Valley CC)
13	Chavis, Reggie	LB	6-1	250	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Shugartown)
13	Evans, Mike	WR	6-5	225	So-1L	Galveston, Texas (Ball)
14	McQueen, Connor	QB	5-10	175	Fr-RS	Odin, Texas (Klein Oak)
14	Robert, Sr. Floyd	DB	6-2	190	Jr-2L	Kenner, La. (East St. John)
15	Lathart, Travis	WR	5-9	182	Sr-2L	Dallas, Texas (Whiteland)
15	Marshall, Kenneth	DB	6-0	191	Fr-RS	South Houston, Texas (South Houston)
16	Beggs, Dwayne	LB	6-1	250	Jr-2L	League City, Texas (Clear Springs)
16	Jacobel, Matt	QB	6-4	234	Jr-1L	Arlington, Texas (Arlington)
17	Seals-Jones, Ricky	WR	6-5	225	Fr-RS	Sealy, Texas (Sealy)
18	Pope, Edward	WR	6-4	170	Fr-RS	Carthage, Texas (Carthage)
19	Frank, Connor	QB	6-2	200	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Langham Creek)
19	Feltche, Matt	DB	6-1	171	So-3Q	Brown, Texas (Hadden)
19	Talbryn, Jeremy	WR	5-11	180	Fr-RS	Honolulu, Hawaii (St. Louis)
20	Wicks, James	RB	6-0	210	Fr-RS	Pearland, Texas (Edwin)
21	Cason, Tre	RB	6-0	227	So-7R	Beaumont, Texas (Liberty/Erwin/Oregon)
22	Garnett, Timmons	DB	6-0	175	Fr-RS	Missouri City, Texas (Mamie)
23	Holmes, Sebastian	WR	5-11	175	So-1L	Southlake, Texas (Carroll)
23	Miles, Cameron	■	6-1	215	Fr-RS	Mesquite, Texas (West Mesquite)
24	Bortolot, Taylor	PLK	5-9	174	So-1L	Reading, Pa. (Lester Township)
25	Gonzalez, La Quinterio	WR	5-10	165	Fr-RS	Cedar Hill, Texas (Cedar Hill)
25	Holycross, Clay	■	6-2	200	Jr-1L	Dickinson, Texas (Dickinson)
26	Burns, Devonta	■	6-0	201	So-3Q	Arlington, Texas (Martha)
27	Dekora, Bruce	RB	5-9	170	So-1L	Austin, Texas (Westlake)
27	Hahn, Shane	■	5-11	200	So-7R	Cibola, Texas (Greene/VTEP)
28	Davis, Vicki	DB	6-0	175	Fr-RS	Roundburg, Penn (Terry)
29	Everett, Deshaun	DB	6-0	185	Jr-2L	Delidder, La. (De Ridder)
30	Franklin, Johnnet	■	6-2	200	Sr-3L	Midvale, W.Va. (Madison/Victor)
31	Matthews, Howard	DB	6-2	200	Jr-2L	League City, Texas (Clear Springs)
32	King, Ryan	DB	5-11	175	So-3Q	Aledo, Texas (Aledo)
33	Harris, Ace	WR	6-1	196	Jr-3Q	Smithville, Texas (Smithville)
33	Washington, Shawn	LB	6-2	210	Fr-RS	Alexandria, La. (Esmar)
34	Toussaint, Blake	RB	6-0	230	So-3Q	Wichita Falls, Texas (Ruler)
34	Ward, Josh	■	5-9	175	Fr-RS	San Antonio, Texas (Joy)
35	Harris, Boice	WR	6-1	190	Jr-3Q	Smithville, Texas (Smithville)
35	Taylor, Tyrell	LB	6-4	230	Jr-2L	Houston, Texas (Galema Park)
36	Wiggins, Jonathan	DB	6-3	210	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Meyer Junior)
37	Sever, Jr., Alex	DB	5-9	180	Fr-RS	Orange, Texas (Little Cypress-Mauriceville)
38	Coleman, Matt	DB	5-9	170	Fr-RS	San Antonio, Texas (East Central)
38	Rosen, Drew	P	6-3	220	So-3Q	Strongsville, Ohio (Westal Junior)
39	Harvey, Daniel	DS	6-3	200	Fr-RS	College Station, Texas (A&M Consolidated)
39	Taylor III, Marvin	DB	5-11	187	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Lynn)
40	Ward, Shawn	LB	6-2	244	Jr-2L	FL. Lauderdale, Fla. (Boyd Anderson)
41	Alexander, Brandon	OL	6-6	255	So-1L	Brookshire, Texas (Brookshire)

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	HT	WT	CL-EXP	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/PREVIOUS SCHOOL)
41	Young, Stephen	WR	5-11	185	Sr-3Q	Burnet, Texas (Burnet)
42	Beacha, Ryan	WR	5-8	175	Jr-3Q	Round Rock, Texas (Round Rock)
42	Ernst, Kirby	OL	6-4	300	Sr-3L	Huntsville, Texas (Huntsville)
43	Bass, Andre	LB	6-2	217	Jr-1L	Plano, Texas (West)
44	Morales, Sam	DB	5-11	186	So-3L	San Antonio, Texas (Austonian Prep)
45	Mastropeters, Jordan	LB	6-2	230	Fr-RS	Cadde, Texas (Forest)
46	Hillard, A.	LB	6-2	230	So-7R	Kerr, Texas (Allen/Dak/TCLU)
46	Trigucka, Shane	P	6-3	210	Fr-RS	Allen, Texas (Allen)
47	Smith, Caden	OL	6-3	259	So-3Q	Roscoe, Texas (Roscoe)
48	Claborn, Darian	LB	6-0	225	Fr-RS	Port Allen, La. (Port Allen)
48	Lariba, Josh	PLK	6-0	215	So-7R	Widdleton, W.Va. (Edison Center/Colin County)
49	Martinez, Taylor	LB	6-0	215	Fr-RS	Fort Bend, Texas (Trinity)
50	Ortega, Justin	DS	5-10	235	Jr-2L	San Antonio, Texas (Beagan)
50	Rayford, Tyrone	LB	6-3	240	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Galema Park)
50	Harrison, Jarvis	OL	6-4	320	Jr-2L	Navasota, Texas (Navasota)
50	Wade, Brett	LB	6-1	225	Fr-RS	Kennedale, Texas (Kennedale)
54	Freeman, Allen	DS	6-1	228	Jr-3Q	Round Rock, Texas (Westwood)
54	Meador, Larry	LB	6-0	175	Fr-RS	Plano, Texas (Prestonwood Christian)
55	Manning, Austin	OL	6-1	270	Fr-RS	Dallas, Texas (Kimbrell)
56	Cobb, Nick	LB	5-11	200	Fr-RS	Allen, Texas (Allen)
56	Matthews, Matt	OL	6-3	280	So-1L	Missouri City, Texas (Elkins)
57	Aburaze, Adam	LB	6-1	205	Fr-RS	Baytown, Texas (Gibson Creek Memorial)
58	Johnson, Cody	LB	6-1	220	So-3Q	Amahoe, Texas (Amahoe)
58	Foster, Isaac	OL	6-3	308	Fr-RS	Santa Rosa, Texas (Santa Rosa)
61	Loft, Chad	OL	6-1	280	Fr-RS	Austin, Texas (McMurry)
63	Landbladt, Ryan	OL	6-7	305	Fr-RS	Richmond, Texas (Foster)
64	Porter, Trey	OL	6-5	266	Fr-RS	Katy, Texas (Cinco Ranch)
65	Arachiga, John-Albert	OL	6-2	300	So-3Q	Houston, Texas (Jersey Village)
67	Goodwin, Tyler	OL	6-8	280	Fr-RS	Clear Springs, Texas (Clear Springs)
68	Campton, Ben	OL	6-4	307	Jr-2L	Friendwood, Texas (Friendwood)
69	Wilson, Jeremiah	OL	6-4	280	Fr-RS	<del>Waco, Texas (Waco)</del>
70	Ogburn, Cedric	OL	6-5	300	Jr-2L	Allen, Texas (Allen)
71	Tipton, Kimo	OL	6-9	330	Fr-RS	Hurst, Texas (J.D. Bell)
72	Stanbury, Gavin	OL	6-4	270	Jr-2L	Franklin, La. (Franklin)
73	Saunders, Jeremiah	OL	6-4	285	So-1R	Pacific, Calif. (Thoma Mena/UC of San Francisco)
74	Hick, German	OL	6-5	320	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Westlake)
75	Matthews, Jake	OL	6-5	305	Sr-3L	Missouri City, Texas (Elkins)
76	Agular, Jose	OL	6-6	270	Fr-RS	North Richland Hills, Texas (Birdville)
77	Klink, Shap	OL	6-7	305	Sr-1L	Katy, Texas (Katy)
78	Graham, Garrett	OL	6-6	308	Jr-3Q	Denton, Texas (Rosen)
79	Cheek, Joseph	OL	6-7	300	So-1L	Seguin, Texas (Seguin)
80	Porter, Quinn	WR	6-2	190	Fr-RS	Marshall, Texas (Marshall)
81	Hicks, Hechomah	TE	6-4	254	Sr-3L	Hutto, Texas (Hutto)
82	Hendryboffer, Beane	WR	6-0	180	Fr-RS	San Antonio, Texas (Churchill)
83	Larue, Sebastian	WR	5-11	180	Fr-RS	Los Angeles, Calif. (Santa Monica)
83	Williams, Alonso	OL	6-4	280	So-3L	Long Beach, Calif. (Polytechnic)
84	Kennedy, Shatone	WR	6-0	200	Jr-2L	Caryoga, Texas (Caryoga)
87	Clear, Cameron	TE	6-6	270	Jr-1R	Memphis, Tenn. (Central/Airline/Western)
88	Lamarcus, Gordon	WR	6-4	182	Sr-1L	Navasota, Texas (Navasota)
89	Robinson, Ivan	OL	6-3	270	Jr-2L	Longville, La. (South Beauregard)
90	Masabian, Polo	OL	6-5	270	Fr-RS	Elkins, Texas (Trinity)
92	Perkins, Jordan	OL	6-9	280	Fr-RS	Rockwall, Texas (Heath)
93	Hayneson, Ben	OL	6-8	270	Fr-RS	Houston, Texas (Strake Jesuit)
94	Scharp, Turner	OL	6-3	290	Fr-RS	San Antonio, Texas (Ronald Reagan)
95	Oboya, Julio	OL	6-8	255	So-3L	New Orleans, La. (Brother Martin)
96	Arnold, Jay	OL	6-8	266	Fr-RS	Rockwall, Texas (Heath)
97	Wicks, Cody	PLK	5-1	200	Fr-RS	Dallas, Texas (Jesuit)
98	Walker, Martinech	OL	6-2	290	Fr-RS	Spring, Texas (Westfield)
99	Golden, Isaac	OL	6-2	320	Fr-RS	Carthage, Texas (Carthage)



# TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL [ 2010 ]



**Kevin Sumlin**  
Head Coach

## OFFENSIVE COACHES



**B.J. Anderson**  
Running Backs Coach

**Jake Spavital**  
Quarterbacks Coach



**Clarence McKinney**  
Wide Receivers Coach

**David Beaty**  
Tight Ends Coach



### TB



**#1 Ben Malena**  
(Sr-3L)

### QB



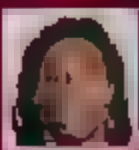
**#2 Johnny Manziel**  
(So-1L)

### WR



**#23 Sabian Holmes**  
(So-1L)

### WR



**#11 Derel Walker**  
(Sr-1L)

### TE



**#81 Nehemiah Hicks**  
(Sr-3L)

### RT



**#70 Cedric Ogbuehi**  
(Jr-2L)

### RG



**#74 Germain Ifedi**  
(Fr-RS)

### C



**#56 Mike Matthews**  
(So-1L)

### LG



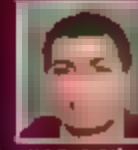
**#51 Jarvis Harrison**  
(Jr-2L)

### LT



**#75 Jake Matthews**  
(Sr-3L)

### WR



**#13 Mike Evans**  
(So-1L)

### CB



**#3 Alex Sezer Jr**  
(Fr-1S)

### DE



**#50 Tyrone Taylor**  
(Fr-RS)

### DT



**#42 Kirby Ennis**  
(Sr-3L)

### DT



**#83 Alonzo Williams**  
(So-1L)

### RUSH



**#95 Julien Ohioha**  
(So-1L)

### CB



**#7 Tramain Jacobs**  
(Sr-1L)

### BS



**#8 Floyd Raven Sr**  
(Jr-2L)

### NICK



**#4 Toney Hurd Jr**  
(Sr-3L)

### MLB



**#3 Tommy Sanders Jr**  
(Jr-TR)

### WLB



**#16 Donnie Baggs Jr**  
(Jr-2L)

### FS



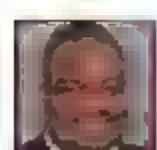
**#2 Clay Honeycutt Jr**  
(Jr-2L)

## DEFENSIVE COACHES



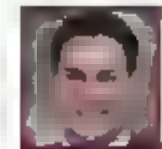
**Mark Snyder**  
Defensive Line Coach

**Marcel Yates**  
Linebackers Coach



**Terry Price**  
Defensive Backs Coach

**Mark Hagen**  
Unrecruited



**Jeff Banks**  
Special Teams Coach

## SPECIAL TEAMS

### K



**#24 Taylor Bertolotti**  
(So-1L)

### P



**#38 Drew Kaser**  
(So-SQ)

### H



**#38 Drew Kaser**  
(So-SQ)

### DS



**#75 Jake Matthews**  
(Sr-3L)

### KR



**#3 Trey Williams**  
(So-1L)

### PR



**#23 Sabian Holmes**  
(So-1L)





**KIRBY ENNIS (SR-3L)**

*Nose Tackle*



**TYRONE TAYLOR (FR-RS)**

*Defensive End*



**ALONZO WILLIAMS (SO-1L)**

*Defensive Tackle*



## DEFENSE [ DEFENSIVE LINE ]

After a one game suspension, the defensive line welcomed back nose guard **Kirby Ennis**. The 6' 4", 310 lb. senior will deter opposing offenses from trying the middle of the Aggie line as this guy knows how to fill a gap up front. Joining Ennis at defensive tackle is **Alonzo Williams**, who has made an





instant impact, drawing double teams and wreaking havoc on opponents. **Julien Obioha** returns after starting 12 games as a true freshman. He has the ability to run around much bigger pass blockers and will look to continue the recent history of successful defensive ends to lead the team in sacks. **Gavin**

**Stansbury** has the size and quickness to make a difference at the other end. Backing up the starting defensive line, **Tyrone Taylor, Jay Arnold, Isiah Golden, Hardreck Walker, Tyrell Taylor** and **Daeshon Hall** will provide the depth Coach Price is looking for.





TRAMAIN JACOBS (SR-1L)

Cornerback



DEYONTA ALLEN (JR-2L)

Cornerback



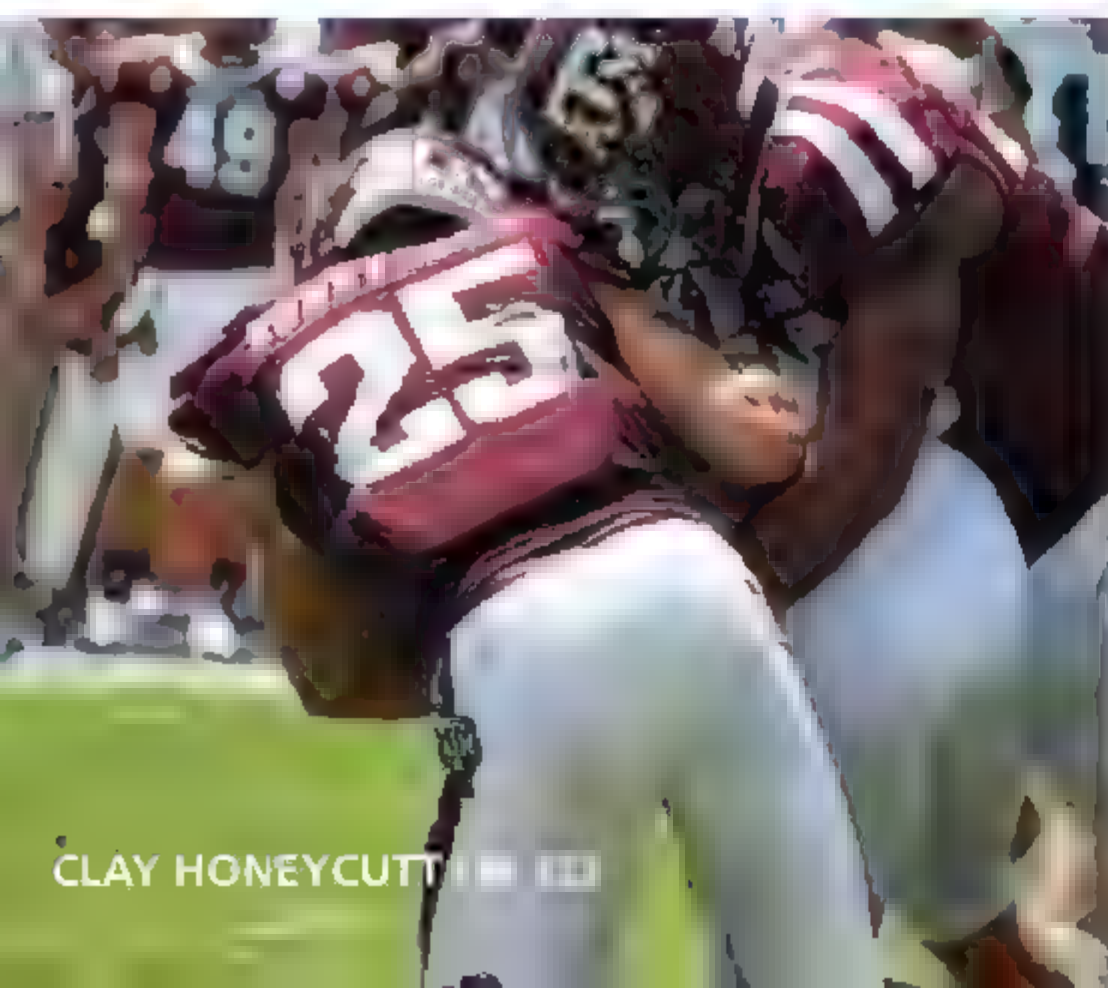
TONEY HURD JR. (SR-3L)

Nickelback



DESHAZOR EVERETT (JR-2L)

Cornerback



CLAY HONEYCUTT (JR-1L)

## [ DEFENSIVE BACK ]

Senior **Toney Jurd Jr.** represented the Aggies at SEC Media Days this summer. Coach Sumlin hopes that same leadership will continue this fall in the defensive backfield. Toney is a big hitter and should direct the Aggie defense from his nickel back position. Suspensions have forced young guys to step up and play early this season, but for the Aggies to win in the SEC, veteran guys will have to come back and play early.





ALEX SEZER JR. (FR-HS)

and often. **Howard Matthews** and **Clay Honeycutt** have gotten a lot of reps so far, and that experience should help the Aggies moving forward. **Deshazor Everett** is a returning playmaker that should have a huge impact for the defense this season. The Ags will look for him to provide leadership and produce like he did last year. **De’Vante Harris** made huge strides in the off season and fall camp and

Coach Snyder is counting on the returning sophomore to have an outstanding fall. **Tramain Jacobs**, **Alex Sezer Jr.**, **Jonathan Wiggins**, **Sam Moeller** and **Noel Ellis** have been early contributors; hopefully, early playing time can result in wins for the Ags this fall.





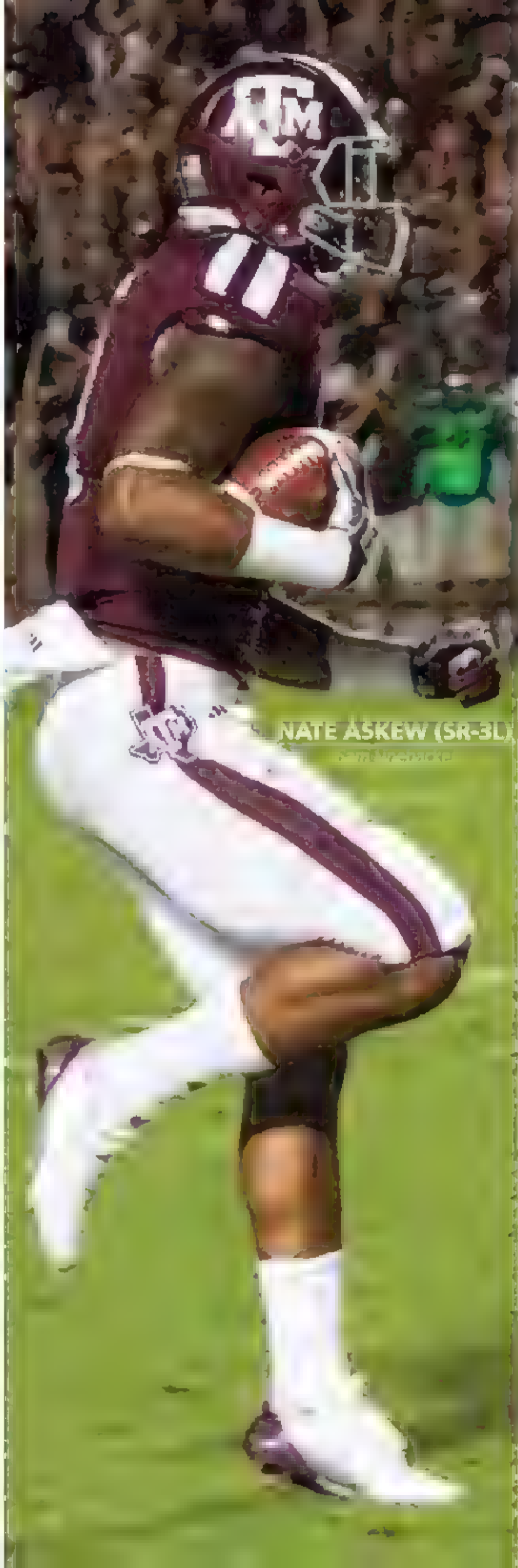
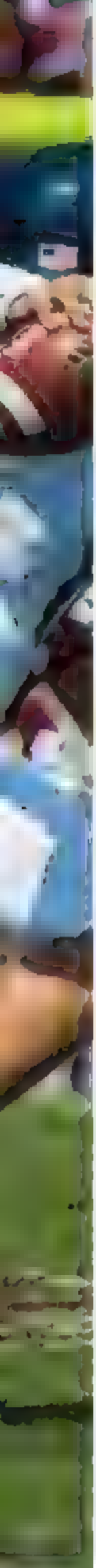
DONNIE BAGGS (JR. 2L)  
*Will Linebacker*

## [ LINEBACKER ]

The Aggies have to replace Johnathan Stewart and Sean Porter this year and will turn to returning starter **Steven Jenkins** to lead the group of athletic players. **Donnie Baggs** and **Jordan Mastrogiovanni** will be called on to fill the shoes of Stewart and Porter. Baggs is a big hitter and a good pass rushing linebacker. Mastrogiovanni has showed promise

and looks to be the best option for the Aggies at the Sam position. **Nate Askew** moves over from wide receiver and had a pick 6 against SHSU. **Tommy Sanders** continues to show improvement each game. **Shaan Washington** and **Darian Claiborne** will battle for playing time as well





NATE ASKEW (SR-3L)

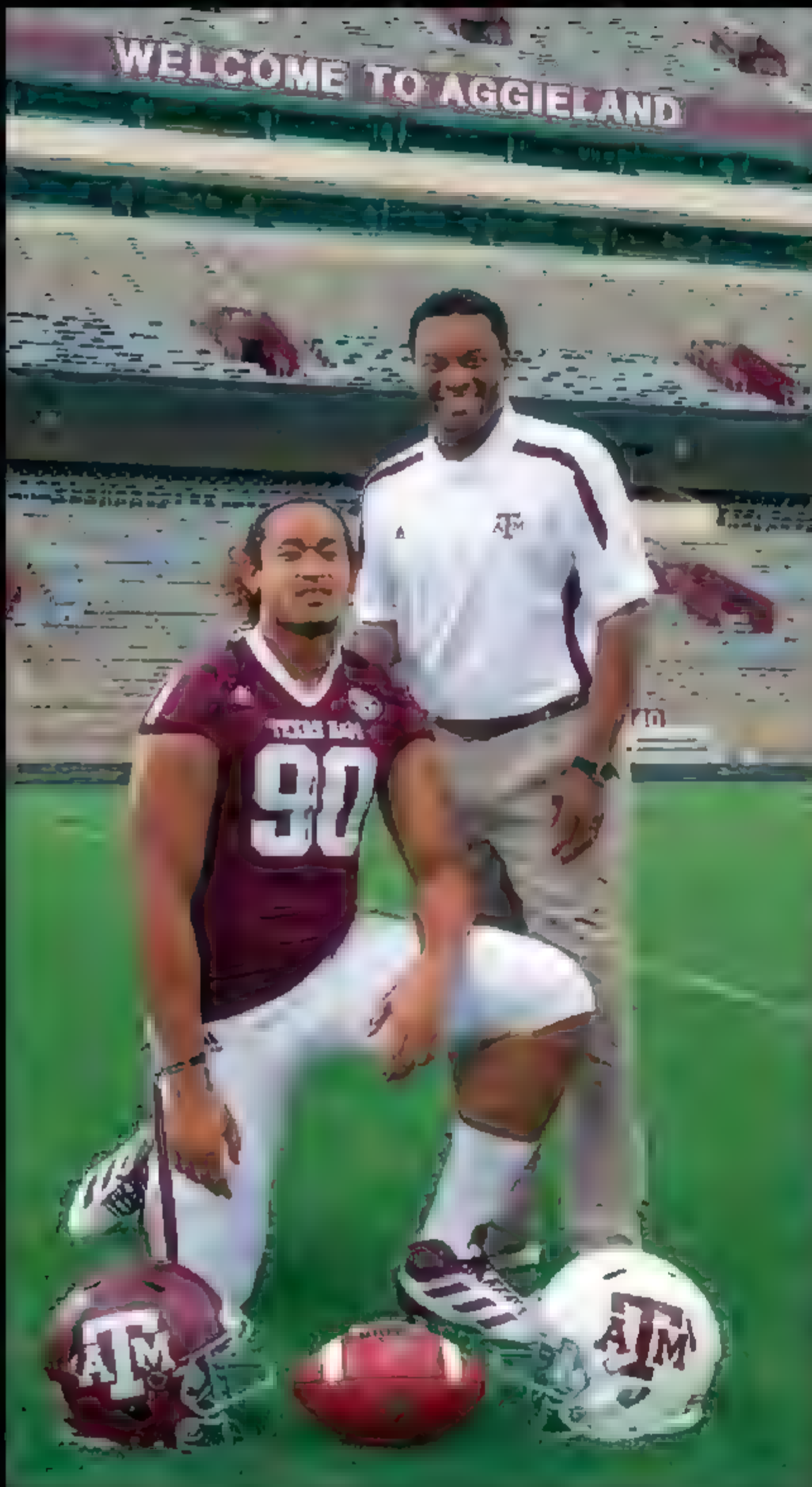
Running Back



TOMMY SANDERS (JR-TR)

Middle Linebacker





## POLO MANUKAINIU 1994-2013

Texas A&M lost one of the family this summer when defensive lineman Polo Manukainiu was killed in a car accident in New Mexico. He would have been a redshirt freshman this season. To honor him, the Aggie football team will wear a number 90 sticker on their helmets, and a different A&M defensive lineman will wear No. 90 each week. *(Bottom Right: Alonzo Williams, wearing No. 90, was the first player to honor Manukainiu.)*



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## COACH SUMLIN ON SEEING TEXAS A&M BEING THE NEXT ALABAMA:

"I wouldn't have come to Texas A&M if I didn't believe we had the ability to be one of the top programs in the country. I think the combination of a lot of things have led to our success between seasons. We talked about recruiting and being able to recruit at a high level. I think we are accomplishing that. Being in the SEC is one thing, but if you're getting beat down in the SEC every week like people said was going to happen to us, I don't know that we'd be able to recruit at the level that we can recruit right now. I know that people understand, players understand that, and coaches understand that. We give players in this state, even in this region, a choice of a different league, arguably the best league in the country to play in games like this Saturday. There's an appeal to young players for that and it should be. If you invest that much time with what you do in high school, junior high, and everything else at a certain point in your life when you choose a university from an academic standpoint, we're extremely competitive. You also want the ability to play in meaningful games and against the best. Right now, we provide that opportunity, certainly for guys 5-6 hours from here, that maybe a few years ago that wasn't the case."





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# DREAMS COME TRUE IN AGGIELAND

AI'S Own Dan Havens Earns Roster Spot

BY ROB HAVENS '88

My wife gives me grief that I can watch the last five minutes of the movie *Rudy* and tear up as I view the final scenes. Rudy's dad walking into Notre Dame stadium for the first time, claiming, "This is the most beautiful sight these eyes have ever seen." Mind you, I've never been an Irish fan—far from it after watching them defeat my Aggies in the Cotton Bowl several years back; but the movie about a young man who grew up loving Notre Dame and worked as hard as he could to accomplish his dreams of playing for them has always been one of my favorites.

Having gone to school at A&M, and now the publisher of *Aggieland Illustrated*, I've been told more than a time or two by non-Aggie friends that we brainwash our kids from birth to be Aggies. I contend that the "Spirit can ne'r be told" is contagious to those who grew up experiencing all that A&M has to offer. I will admit to dressing my kids in maroon from birth, and while Mom was trying to get our first-born, Dan, to say, "Ma Ma," I spent my time teaching him to say "Aggies!" Believe it or not, it was Dan's first word; I have the VHS-C tape to prove it!


I grew up in Lubbock, Texas (insert hiss here), and it is difficult to raise Aggies in a red and black world. My wife, Gina, is a Red Raider, but she was willing to raise our boys, Dan, Tyler and David, as Aggie fans. Gig'em, whoops and wildcat signs A-A-A were normal in the Havens household, and so, as my boys grew up, it was only natural that they one day would want to leave the dusty plains of west Texas to live in the promised land of College Station. Six years ago we made that dream of living in Aggieland a reality.



Back in Lubbock, my oldest son, Dan, started playing football when he was seven years old. His first flag football team was called the Jets, and under the direction of head coach Mike Maloney and assistant coach Greg Vaughn, Dan had his first football practice. I, like most dads, was hoping my son would be a quarterback or a running back, but it was at his first practice that Coach Vaughn saw Dan deep snap for the first time. The key to winning in flag football is to get the ball to your best player and have him sweep it around the end. At age seven, Dan was able to shotgun snap the ball back eight yards so our quarterback, Tanner, could race around the corner. It was the beginning of a football career that Dan continues today.

Dan played five years of YFL football before we moved to College Station, playing center the entire time. He continued to play center at College Station Middle School, and for the first time became a deep snapper specialist for punts and field goals. Dan continued his football career at A&M Consolidated High School, where as a sophomore, he walked up to Head Coach Slaughter on the first day of deep snapper tryouts and told him, "I can deep snap." The coach told him to show him what he could do, and as Dan fired back the first snap, another coach exclaimed, "Who is that?" From that moment on, Dan was the long snapper. As one of only three sophomores to make the varsity team, he took every snap for special teams for the next three years and also became an All District offensive lineman during his senior year.

Dan's ultimate dream has always been to play for the Aggies. He went to the Aggie deep snapping camps and impressed the coaches with his snap speed and accuracy. In the spring of his senior year, Dan found out that his lifelong dream of playing for the Aggies was going to be a reality.

Dan enrolled in school and started working out with the team this summer; his dreams have come true. When the Aggies run out of the tunnel through the smoke, and I see #39 with 'Havens' on the back, I'm sure I'll be repeating Rudy's dad's line in my mind, "This is the most beautiful sight these eyes have ever seen!" 





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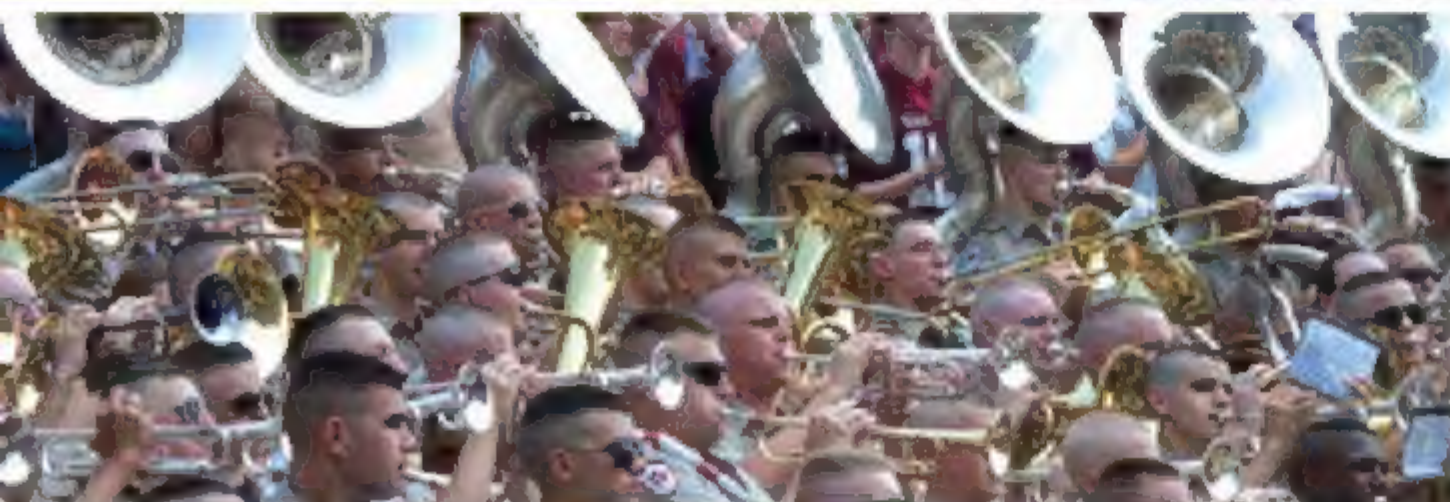
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